

LETTERS



AND EMAIL

Send your letters to:

The Sunday Times,
4th floor, Bishop's Square, Richmond's Hill, Dublin 2
Email: ireland@sunday-times.ie
Fax: 01 479 2421

Pro-choice is not about abortion but information

FOR the past few years we have been slowly uncovering the layers of people hurt by institutions which used their powerful positions to silence the voices of their victims ("Cruel" posters feature regret for abortion", News, last week).

It is shocking that the National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCI) would try to silence these women by using similar tactics to those used by institutions and the Irish government in the past.

The council speaks as if this new group is in competition with pro-choice groups. In fact it should be an integrated part of the pro-choice movement.

It should not make any difference to pro-choice groups

isn't Susan McKay being very selective about their "choices"?
Marion Murphy
Sallins, Co Kildare

Resounding failure

It seems that women's experiences will be listened to by the feminist establishment, including the NWCI, only if they resonate with their views. I hope women will read the billboards and check out womenhurtle, **Siobhán Hall**
Athlone, Co Westmeath

Aftermath problem

You deserve credit for publishing information on the psychological aftermath of abortion. The main group featured in your article, Rachel's Vineyard, has a story rooted in intense personal experiences involving loss and mourning. I encourage you to do more on this issue.

David Logan
Möhll, Co Leitrim

No private matter

McKay says "pro-choice organisations don't have the finances for big poster campaigns". As the Cockneys would say, you're having a laugh. Putting on the poor mouth and resenting those who represent mainstream Ireland is scraping the barrel. McKay also says "abortion is a private matter". Not when the life of a third party is at stake.

Cruel irony

Two women decide to go public about the traumatic experiences they have endured from abortion only for the billboard campaign in which they feature to be attacked by the NWCI as being "cruel". So

Mary Gallagher

Validation at last

I know a couple of women who



The National Women's Council of Ireland labelled the Women Hurt billboards 'cruel'

have undergone abortions and regret them, but never felt able to speak out about the hurt the decision caused them. The arrival of the Women Hurt group validates their feelings and hopefully will help them along the road to recovery.

Evana Boyle
Boonerstown, Co Dublin

Misguided attack

McKay has made her support for the availability of abortion well known. So it didn't come as a surprise to see her label as "cruel" the billboard initiative.

If McKay seriously thinks a billboard that offers hope and possible healing to women

who regret abortion is cruel, then the NWCI urgently needs to re-evaluate its aims.

Anne-Maree Quinn
Blackrock, Co Dublin

Regrettable action

It's not the first time NWCI has brushed aside the stories of women who regret the decision to opt for abortion. One has to conclude that the leadership of NWCI only speaks up for women who share their world view.

It's evident from the billboards that Women Hurt isn't trying to guilt-trip women who had abortions but is simply trying to reach

women like themselves who regret the decision to go through with their abortion.

Rachel Kenny
Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin

Sides don't matter

I was taken aback to read that the NWCI is trying to stop Irish women from sharing their real-life experiences of abortion. Surely an open and frank discussion about the reality of abortion and the experiences of women who've had abortion(s) is a good thing, regardless of what "side" one subscribes to.

Evelyn Fennelly
Laois